

Remarks

Claims 1-20 were pending in the application and were rejected. By this Amendment, claims 1-19 have been cancelled and claim 20 has been amended. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested. No new matter has been added.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-10 were rejected under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,221,332 issued to Thumm (hereinafter “Thumm ‘332”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,056,591 issued to Rutter (hereinafter “Rutter ‘591”). This rejection is now moot due to cancellation of the these claims.

Claim 11 was rejected under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Thumm ‘332 in view of Rutter ‘591 and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,007,227 issued to Carson (hereinafter “Carson ‘227”). This rejection is now moot due to the cancellation of claim 11.

Claims 12-20 were rejected under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Thumm ‘332 in view of Rutter ‘591 and further in view Carson ‘227 and still further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,966,466 issued to Soechtig (hereinafter “Soechtig ‘466”). The rejection of claims 12-19 is now moot due to the cancellation of these claims. Applicants have amended claim 20 to more distinctly claim the present invention. Amended claim 20 recites a system for dispensing a reactant mixture on a workpiece. The system includes base and catalyst shutoff valves and base and catalyst valves that permit “flow in two directions” and are therefore distinguishable from the one-way check valves found in some of the cited references. Moreover, the base and catalyst valves “are the only valves disposed between the metering ram and the mixing chamber,” which is distinguishable from the cited references, either alone or in combination. Applicants have further amended claim 20 to clarify how the present invention may account for the expansion of a flexible conduit to dispense appropriate amounts of a base and a catalyst to attain a desired reactant mixture. More specifically, a characteristic of the base “provided by the base flow meter stops actuation of the metering ram and closes the base

valve when the characteristic of the base exceeds a predetermined base pressure value" and a characteristic of the catalyst "provided by the catalyst flow meter stops actuation of the metering ram and closes the catalyst valve when the characteristic of the catalyst exceeds a predetermined catalyst pressure value, thereby providing a desired amount of base and catalyst irrespective of expansion of the flexible base and catalyst conduits." Moreover, the system rejects a workpiece that receives a reactant mixture "when volume of the base... exceeds a predetermined base volume value" or "when the volume of the catalyst ... exceeds a predetermined catalyst volume value." Applicants respectfully believe that these specific limitations are not disclosed or remotely suggested by any of the cited references, either alone or in combination. As such, Applicants believe the rejection of claim 20 has been overcome.

Conclusion

Applicants have made a genuine effort to respond to the Examiner's objections and rejections in advancing the prosecution of this case. Applicants believe all formal and substantive requirements for patentability have been met and that this case is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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